California GARDEN

FORTY-THIRD YEAR | SUMMER 1952 | VOLUME 43, NO. 2

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 . . . . 6 p.m.
Box Supper at Rosecroft, 510 Silvergate. Coffee to be served by committee.

OCTOBER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 . . . . 8 p.m.
Ralph D. Cornell, leading Los Angeles landscape architect, to show travel slides. Floral Building.

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DAY-TIME STUDY GROUP OFFERED

In response to popular request, the Floral Association will offer, beginning the latter part of September, day-time study groups and programs. So that we may poll the wishes of the majority, will you let your preferences be known. Communicate with Alice Greer. State the day of the week, the time of the day, and the type of study or program that you prefer. The groups will be open to you and your friends.

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California Garden

FORTY-THIRD YEAR SUMMER 1952 VOL. 43, NO. 2

Mrs. Clark, faithful contributor to California Garden, is as "professional" an amateur as one can find, her ideas stimulating and inspiring.

Ideas Of An Amateur On An Outdoor Room

Alice M. Clark

One of the finest contributions contemporary architecture has given us is the extension of the living-room into the out-of-doors. It takes some of the sting out of high realty and building costs today if every square foot of our properties is utilized. Southern Californians can build gardens to live in and smaller houses to sleep in, instead of shutting themselves up in larger houses while dogs, cats and clothesline pre-empt the back yard. The independence that the fashion world has enjoyed has at last come to the house and garden. Now the homeowner can suit himself without reference to precedence or the neighbors. Within property boundaries, plans for outdoor living are limited only by imagination, inclination and budget. It is economical as well as best to engage a real landscape to lay out your plot but if that is not feasible here are a few suggestions from the school of experience which I have attended.

On the usual lot of 75 ft. frontage or less, it is to be hoped that the garage or carport is part of the front of the house, adjacent to the kitchen, so the service yard can be relegated to that side. This space *must* be hidden. If you plan to be any kind of a gardener at all, use this back area for a compost bin at least 4 by 4 feet. It will save carrying out the garden trash and provide valuable humus so deficient in the soil of this county. It is smart to have another bin in which to break down and moisten a full bale of peat moss, and still others for leafmold and manure. It is more economical to buy these garden commodities in large quantities, so storage spaces pay for themselves. Slant the fronts of the bins in at the bottom to give toe room. Cover the tops to make a potting bench and places for raising seedlings and flats of young plants or tuberous begonias. If the bins are next to the garage or fence, a lath extension overhead adds to the comfort of both plants and worker. There should also be a small but efficient closet, with padlock, to keep tools, portable barbecue and chemicals safe from weather and small children.

An attractive entrance to the garden, preferably from the living room, is almost essential. If steps down are necessary, make the break with a wide terrace rather than a couple of short steps, which spoil the feeling of unity between the inside and out. I do not like the crowded implications of the words "patio" and "lanai." Do everything to gain a sense of space. Have as much lawn as possible beyond the paved, flagged or bricked sitting area. Grass rests the eyes by offsetting the glare of walls and pavement; is easier on the ears and a safer tumbling area for young children, besides being a valuable expanse for the overflow of guests when larger parties are given. Established dichondra is the answer to a good green turf, but don't let anyone tell you it is easy to start. Begin with deep digging, incorporating humus in the form of peat or compost, plus a weedless fertilizer, such as Bandini steer manure. The new soil conditioners might be helpful here to prevent a crust. In the warm season, sections from a flat of dichondra, set 6 inches apart will grow together quite rapidly if thoroughly watered. Eliminate every weed by hand-pulling for the next six months or more until the sod is a thick mat. The worst weed to fight is a creeping oxalis, with leaves like a clover, and growth so similar to the dichondra itself that they are hard to separate. It takes a stout heart to win that battle but it is worth it. In dense shade use a mossy grass called helixine, or Baby Tears, around a few stepping stones for the heavier traffic.

Find one spot in the garden where you can always be warm in winter and get a good tan in the summer. Do not forget to allow for the seasonal difference in the sun's rays. Run the paving or lawn into this area and be sure it is never shaded. When sheltered from the wind it is called a "sun trap," and is almost essential for

outdoor living in our climate, which is rarely hot.

With the utilities and the open part of the garden established, think next of the privacy you wish. Brick and masonry walls or redwood fences, as high as the law allows, make attractive backgrounds. Hedges, especially eugenias, are handsome, but entail the endless work of trimming, spraying, weeding volunteer seedlings and cutting robber roots. If the budget is thin, a temporary lath or wire fence can be covered quickly with lighter vines such as the winter-blooming orange trumpet vine, *pyrostegia venusta;* scarlet runner, *phaseolus coccineus;* violet-flowered cup-and-saucer vine, *cobea scandens,* or the blue passion-flower, *passiflora caerulea.*

Solid walls are attractive in themselves but they also support heavy vines. The persimmon-colored trumpets of *bignonia cherere,* now called *phaedranthus buccinatorius,* are handsome against dark masses of evergreen foliage. This vine can clamber harmlessly over masonry but it is disrupting to a roof. The big blue flower balls on *solanum wendlandii,* the gold cups of *solandra guttata,* and the rapid-growing giant honeysuckle, *lonicera hildebrantiana,* are not for the small garden. But if you do have a warm high south wall where a bougainvillea can climb and thus carry its gorgeous masses of color higher into the picture, it is a temptation to use it though it develops into a thorny tangle without strict supervision.

Redwood fences of boards or grapestakes are so beautiful they need only tracery of a vine to enhance them. (Leave air spaces between boards for good ventilation.) The white trumpets of the Chilean jasmine, *mandevilla suaveolens* in summer and the white stars of *clematis armandii* in spring, scent the air while the leaves of the vines make a graceful coverage. A tender twining vine with sky-blue trumpet flowers, *thunbergia grandiflora,* blooms in the fall. Also funnel-shaped are the purple-to-lavendar clusters on *distictus lactiflora,* which show color from March to October. *Hardenbergia comptoniana* is a dainty thing, with very slender leaves and tiny bunches of pea-shaped blue flowers in the spring. Do not crowd the walls and fences with vines. Let them also serve as backgrounds for shrubs.

Now about trees, without which a garden is not. When considering the boundaries of your garden you probably noted light poles or other objectionable features. Trees

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will help blot them out. The need for shade will also indicate the location of trees. Because of space limitation, use smaller growing trees, unless you are willing to switch to a shade garden under a spreading sycamore or oak years later, and nothing could be lovelier. Actually you will need to wait patiently for the growth of any tree, using lath on supports to provide shade temporarily. Always bear in mind that a young tree in a well-prepared hole will quickly outdistance a larger one that costs more and may be root-bound in the can.

Unless the growth habit is very open and lacy, select a deciduous tree. Our climate is too cool for the enjoyment of the garden under heavy shade in winter. Also deciduous trees, whose leaves can all be swept up in a few weeks time, are far tidier than evergreens whose constant shedding becomes a great nuisance. There is no such thing as a clean tree so be prepared to do a cheerful job of policing in exchange for the blessings of shade and beauty it bestows. A flowering tree like a jacaranda or one with oily fruits like an olive are unsuited to a living area. The evergreen chinese elm is too dense, while the deciduous variety is really hard to clean up after, and subject to caterpillars.

Liquidambar styraciflua, or sweet gum, is a tall tree that will cover unwanted views but does not offer much shade. It is fine for our gardens as it will take much or little water and provides a fine show of fall color, with leaves similar to a sycamore and a beautiful furrowed bark. Two nice open trees are *pittosporums*; varieties *rhombifolium* and *undulatum*. Though evergreen, they are not too dense. They are fast growing, will stand some abuse and the inconspicuous flowers have a delicious fragrance, with pretty berries later on. A magnolia is a little heavy and is always dropping leaves or flower petals, both of which are out of proportion to the small garden, but the shining green of the foliage is so rich and the fragrance and form of the large scented flowers is so exotic, that every southern home should have one specimen. *Grandiflora* is the variety to ask for. It likes good drainage, does well in sandy soil.

If you want an oriental effect use the Australian tea-tree. The fine leaves of this shrub *leptospermum laevigatum,* are a soft gray. It can be trained up very high and then allowed to spread out in a canopy. The trunks are shaggy, twisted and contorted into very interesting shapes. The silver birch does fairly well here. One can crowd two or three together to show more of their decorative bark as the foliage is quite lacy. Acacias are fast-growing but have a short life. One is always tempted to plant *acacia baileyana* when seeing its cloud of lemon yellow balls in the spring. The finely cut gray foliage is handsome too. The variety *dealbata* has even lovelier leaves, on the gray side but fern-like in form. The flowers are rather pale. One other small tree, *hymenosporum flavum,* should be considered for its light shade and the honeyed fragrance of its soft yellow flower clusters in May and June. Other tall shrubs such as the strawberry tree, *arbutus unedo,* with its interesting berries, and the oleander, particularly the one with the luscious double pink blooms, will serve as small trees.

A lath roof across the rear of your garden, with a redwood fence as a background gives a wonderful vista to the outdoor living room, and the plants you can grow there will be comparatively easy to care for. Unless your climate is hot and dry, keep the lath, (which should run north and south), at least the width of the lath apart, so there is plenty of light, and allow no vines over the top. If you already have a large spreading tree, it will serve as a lathhouse, if kept thinned and pruned very high, like an umbrella.

In an outdoor garden that is used a great deal it pays to build up the flower beds, especially in the shaded area. Then the plants will have the proper soil with better drainage; they cannot be stepped on; they are easier to work with and their beauty is more visible. The height of the raised beds may be as low as one foot, to accommodate larger plants, or as high as a sitting level, for which it is sometimes used, when made of redwood with a flat plank on top, or of stone, bricks or cement blocks. The lowest beds can be as wide as possible, but even the high ones should not be less than 3 feet.

Hydrangeas will fill a wide shade bed in two years with little effort on your part. Cuttings may be started now. Prune back heavily in the fall after blooming and fill in with cinerarias and an edging of *primula malacoides* for winter and spring. Replace with the trailing *campanula isophylla.* Variety *mayi* has blue stars, *alba,* white, in late summer.

Camellias want plenty of light. The rosy Chandleri Elegans, pale-pink Debutante or High Hat and white Purity or Finlandia, are all good, but you should make your own selections at the nursery when in bloom. Azaleas like the same dappled shade, peat and leaf mold soil and acid plant food. They are a wonderful combination blooming together in winter and spring. Buy young azaleas. They grow rapidly when fertilized regularly. Vervaeneana and Albert-and-Elizabeth are fine samples of the large-flowered Indian types, while the smaller single Kurumes run a gamut of colors.

Grow a few of the azaleas in pots so they may be enjoyed in the house for a short time. Bedding begonias of the dwarf type may be used in any part of the garden for colorful borders all through the year.

Fibrous begonias make splendid large shrubs in the shady raised beds. The cane or angel-wing varieties are very gay with drooping panicles of red and pink bloom during the warm months. Lucerna has dark green leaves with red backs, almost always full of dark red flowers. Hairy types such as Mrs. Scripps' Pink Neely Gaddis, Emma Palmer and a dozen others are covered with clusters of white bloom, bewhiskered with pink and red hairs, from late summer to spring. Alternate the two kinds, giving the hirsutes more room.

Fuchsias are cool weather bloomers in partial shade, that need protection from the wind. They make fabulous baskets under lath or trees and fine wall pockets. The taller ones can be espaliered or grown like tree-roses, with blooms reaching above the top of the fence. Two new introductions that are sold out this year but are worth waiting for are the ashes-of-roses, Old Smokey, and the fringed and beruffled white Lace Petticoats. Most of the new fuchsias are enormous.

Don't fail to find space, even in the deepest shade for a few epiphyllums. If tied back, they will grow quite flat. Their flamboyant blooms in brilliant reds, cerise and pinks come when most needed, in the early spring.

Shrubs and perennials are less work in the sunny border than annuals, which can be used later as fillers to pick up a bit of color wherever needed. It is hard to beat a bed of geraniums in your favorite color. Even they need care. Cut back to young growth every year, spray in summer for worms, which are the worst pest of this plant family, and pick the spent flowers. Finest of all, if you will stake, tie, prune and spray them, are the Martha Washingtons. The new forms of these pelargonioums are very superior. They have large and heavily ruffled flowers in huge clusters. They carry as much color in June and July as do azaleas in spring. Ballerina, my favorite pink, has fine long stems for cutting. Queen of Hearts is a good bright red and there are many beautiful whites from which to choose.

Duranta stenostachya is a large shrub, almost a tree, whose dark evergreen foliage, lightened by lavender flowers in summer and yellow berries later, makes it a good choice for a tall corner. Prune by cutting flowers and berries for the house. Combine with white and yellow marguerites, which should be kept in bounds by picking. Use lavender-blue ageratum or nierembergia, Purple Robe for a border. All want full sun.

In a small garden-room, espalier as much as possible to gain height without losing space. The bright shining leaves of *docynia delavayi,* the evergreen pear, lend themselves beautifully for this purpose, but the dwarf Meyer lemon can be almost as handsome and much more useful. Gardenias require peat and leafmold, acid plant food and a raised bed in full eastern exposure. The same location is good for the Mexican-orange, *choisya ternata* and *brunfelsia floribunda.* The first is favored for its three-part leaves and white flowers that look and smell like orange blossoms. The second has an abundance of lavender-blue flowers that are still attractive and sweet-scented even when they fade to white, thus giving rise to the name of Yesterday-today-and-tomorrow. There will only be room for a few annuals around these large shrubs.

Poinsettias require much moisture and food. Plant where they will be prominent in the Christmas picture. Wind and frost are their worst enemy, otherwise they are easy to grow from spring cuttings. For a fine effect in a long narrow bed, select some of the superior new evergreen daylilies, or hmerocallis. In named varieties, of various heights and shades, from wine to pink, besides the oranges and yellows, they can be chosen for bloom most of the year. In 3 years they make good clumps that need little care, except for snail bait.

Place herbs in a dry sunny spot in the small garden where they can overrun the path so you brush their fragrance. Rosemary is tall, dark and handsome, with pine-like foliage. There is also a dwarf prostrate variety. Sage, thyme, marjoram and lavender are all good gray shrubs. Creeping nutmeg or apple-scented geraniums are nice for a careless border. For more fragrance add the cut-leaf rose-geranium, lemon-verbena and heliotrope.

Selection is the most difficult part of planning the small garden. We all want too much, too close together. Regardless of the narrowness of a bed, always plant at least a foot away from the wall —18 inches is better. Fill in with annuals when permanent plants are young but *never* crowd them or you will defeat your own purpose. Curve the garden beds wherever possible for the convenience of the family and the garden hose. Relegate all shrubs of unpleasant texture or thorns, such as roses and pyracanthas as well as those with long dormant periods, like bulbs and iris, to another part of the garden. Combine the

(See page 15)

In a series on outstanding horticulturists—

Elizabeth A. Briggs

EDMUND RUCKER

Someday I hope to draw up a list of the 10 most useful women in San Diego County, and I strongly suspect that at the top will be found the name of Mrs. Elizabeth A. Briggs, of Leucadia, who as a floral hybridizer has achieved a national reputation. By any standard she is a remarkable person.

Born at Peoria, Ill., three days after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was signed, she is now 89 years young—and still active. Her mind is alert, her memory clear, her speech fluent and incisive. At a time in life when most of us are senile and long incapacitated, she still manages an experimental acre of gladiolus. She continues to develop better breeds for floral good health as well as beauty. Although financially independent, she chooses to remain self-supporting.

Mrs. Briggs is the mother of Donald Briggs, of Encinitas, one of the West's largest gladiolus bulb producers and the operator of a wholesale flower market at Los Angeles. He grew up in the business under her instructions. Their careers are closely interwoven.

While she would disclaim the honor, experts of San Diego County's multi-million dollar flower industry credit her with being the industry's founder. She certainly is Southern California's pioneer large scale gladiolus grower. Her business career began in Sacramento in 1914. But let her tell it.

"My husband who was an advertising salesman on the Sacramento Bee," she recalled, "brought home a national magazine with an article recommending that families grow flowers, especially gladiolus. He said, 'Here's something you can do.' After I read the article, I said, 'I can do it; I will do it.'

"My son Donald, then 18, had just returned from Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, and he and I started growing gladiolus bulbs on city lots. But after two years he enlisted in the world war and my husband went into Y.M.C.A. war work. I continued to grow bulbs at Lodi and sold a carload. After the war, Donald attended the University of California at Berkeley, then returned to help me with the bulbs. I was taking care of three acres with a hoe.

"Later we moved to Monterey, and my husband, son and I had wonderful success in raising and selling bulbs. There I began hybridizing. I gathered the best gladiolus stocks in existence from the leading hybridizers of that day—A. E. Kunderd, of Indiana; Richard Diener, of Northern California; and the Fitzer family, of Germany.

"Besides getting the best stocks in various colors, I bought some species of the yellow primulinus, which were especially valuable in hybridizing, to produce yellow and orange varieties with progeny that is healthy and prolific. Since then I have produced hundreds of varieties, including some that are white.

"But the climate of Monterey was such that we could not grow winter flowers, so 26 years ago we came to San Diego County. There were only a few small flower growers here then. Chief among them was Judge McLaughlin, who was raising flowers on a small city lot in Encinitas."



Cut courtesy Union Title Insurance and Trust Company.

Mrs. Briggs' hybridizing work follows a cycle which from pollen to blossom is completed in one year. It begins in June when the flowers are in bloom. Pollen is usually transferred with a camel's hair brush. Seeds are gathered the last of July and are planted August 1. Bulbs are harvested in December. There is a new planting in February or March.

The Briggs flower enterprise had been operated chiefly on leased land of the Encinitas area,

(See page 13)

In describing our cover illustration, Mr. Hottes informs us that Mahonia is both an ornament for shady garden spots, and a fine accompanist for indoor flower arrangements.

Mahonia—Hollygrape

ALFRED C. HOTTES

Ma-ho'ni-ah. Named for Bernard McMahon, American horticulturist, 1775-1816.

Confused with Hollies because of their spiny leaves, the Mahonias are related to Barberries. In late years we are calling all Barberries with compound leaves by the name of Mahonia.

Species. The various species are illustrated on the cover.

Oregongrape (Oregon Hollygrape), *Mahonia aquifolium,* is the commonest species, widely cultivated throughout the United States for its three-to-nine-parted, shiny, leathery, spiny-toothed leaves which are bronzy when young and turn bright red in cold weather. The flowers are bright red and borne in dense clusters at the ends of the branches. The fruits are purple-black.

Closely resembling the above is a creeping sort which is known as *M. repens.* Unlike the above, these leaves are slightly hairy beneath. Both sorts are natives of the Northwest and Canada.

M. bealei was introduced from China as *M. japonica* but, though it resembles this species, it is seldom seen. *M. bealei* has nine to 15 leaflets which are ovate, very stiff, with a few large, very stiff teeth. Some of the largest leaflets are even five inches long, the leaf stalk quite short. The yellow flowers are in racemes three to four inches long. The fruit is bluish black. The true *japonica* has leaflets which are narrower and yellowish green beneath.

Cluster Hollygrape, *M. pinnata,* has ovate or ovate-lance shape leaflets, five to nine-parted, wavy margined, spiny toothed with a heart-shaped base. Flowers yellow in dense terminal clusters.

Chinese Mahonia, *M. fortunei,* has five to eight leaflets, narrow-lance-shape (like *bealei* but narrower and wedgeshaped), spiny toothed. Flowers in racemes six inches long.

M. nevini is wild in California. The leaves are five-parted, oblong, petioles very short, leaf margins undulate, very sharply toothed. Flowers in racemes.

Agarita, Algerita, *M. trifoliolata, is* commonly seen in its native Texas as an ornamental shrub. Resembling *M. nevini,* it has three-parted leaves. The flowers are in few-flowered racemes. The small red fruits are gathered for jelly.

Mahoberberis neuberti is a cross between *Mahoni aquifolia* and *Berberis vulgaris* with simple leaves which seem like a Mahonia, but it has little ornamental value.

Uses. The Hollygrapes are highly ornamental shrubs for shady spots or areas where the sun is not too strong. The firm leaves are excellent for cutting to use with flower arrangements. The frosty appearance of the black fruits are attractive. *M. repens* is a good ground cover.

Culture. Mahonias thrive in most soils, even sandy or dry. They show some tendency to become leggy, in which case they can be pruned back severely.

"The best way to get real enjoyment out of the garden is to put on a wide straw hat, dress in thin, loose-fitting clothes, hold a little trowel in one hand and a cool drink in the other, and tell the man where to dig."—Swapped.

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Mr. Wheatly, Oakleigh Lodge, Lakeside, believes that birds are fine friends to develop, and tells how in this article reprinted from The Family Circle Magazine through the courtesy of the publisher and the author.

Catering To The Birds

W. W. Wheatly

Would you like to double or triple the number of wild birds that add color and song to your garden? You can—whether your home is in the city, in the suburbs, or on a farm. Now is the time to invite the birds you'd like to have as guests by establishing feeding stations, shelters, and drinking basins according to their simple needs. And this is the time to raise the birds' standard of living by providing nesting boxes for avian housekeepers.

While assuring a happy year for the birds, you will be bringing close to your home the many aspects of beauty, mystery, and entertainment that can set agoing a refreshing and fascinating hobby —ornithology, the study of birds. It's a hobby that challenges the imagination and taxes the wits; a year-round hobby that does not have to be put away in cotton batting or otherwise stored for a portion of the year; a hobby that's not limited by age, sex, or circumstance—one that everyone can enjoy. But as John Burroughs warned, "Take the first step in ornithology, and you are ticketed for the whole voyage. There is a fascination about it quite overpowering. It fits in so well with other things."

Wild birds appeal strongly to the affection of mankind. These beautiful air-free creatures are a part of our own American wild life in which every citizen has a common interest. We in America are greatly favored in the number and character of our birds, which include such gems of the bird world as the warblers and hummingbirds, without embracing many of the destructive species.

The birds sing as sweetly anywhere else but we get something intimate—something extra—from a bird song delivered to us in our own doorway. And when we have provided shelter and water and food for our feathered songsters, their vocal efforts seem even more personal. A pair of birds nesting in our own birdhouse may not be worth two pairs in the bush, but there is great satisfaction in inducing birds to raise a family in a home we have provided.

Not only do birds satisfy our aesthetic sense through their form, color, action, and voice, but they have an important claim upon the esteem of every gardener because of their great economic value. Birds feed upon practically all insect pests. Entomologists estimate that insects cause a yearly loss of more than $700,000,000 to American agriculture. Were it not for our birds, the loss would be much greater. Some authorities assert that without the aid of birds successful agriculture would be impossible, that insect life would destroy all vegetation, and that along with other animals mankind would vanish from the earth.

Most birds do not live long, but they live fast and under great pressure. They breathe rapidly, have a higher temperature and more rapid circulation than most other vertebrates. This is a fortunate circumstance, for it makes the birds require a large quantity of food to sustain their active bodies. Wild birds have to spend most of their waking hours obtaining insects, seeds, and other kinds of food. And during the summer—when insect life is at flood tide—birds are compelled to redouble their attacks upon man's chief competitors, the insects, to satisfy the wants of their clamorous young.

The popular misconception that when people move in wild life has to move out has certainly been disproved in the case of birds. Our forefathers found few birds in the unbroken wilderness. The birds appeared in numbers only when early settlers began to farm the clearings. And the birds followed the plow westward. There were not many birds in California until after its settlement. Today the official state count (which is exceeded only by that of Texas) lists 541 different kinds of birds.

The society of man has had unmistakable and friendly influence upon birds, especially the smaller species. With man came flies, moths, and bugs of many kinds. He introduced new plants and weeds that provided additional food. And birds were quick to build their nests near man to take advantage of his protection against their worst enemies—other birds and animals. This pleasant and profitable association seems even more remarkable when we know our birds intimately and can observe their family life.

A program to attract birds around the home is likely to succeed at once if supplies are unfailing. The birds' primary needs are a regular supply of food and water, adequate shelter, protection from cats and other foes, and suitable nesting sites.

Catering to the birds is really an easily managed matter. The feeding station should be set up where the birds' actions can be watched. It should be well off the

ground and safe from predators. Feeders need not be elaborate. Birds are not sticklers for style, and a wooden box or crate supplies building material. A window-sill feeder on the sunny side of the house and away from the wind is one of the best arrangements to start with. It is easy to service and it brings the birds close for observation. This feeder need be nothing more than a wooden shelf with a ½-inch strip all around to keep the food in. Or it can be a deluxe glass-roofed window cafeteria equipped with seed cups, suet rack, water dish, and perches. (A variety of excellent bird feeders can be bought ready-made.)

In planning bird menus remember that insect-eating birds require animal food — suet and meat scraps. For seed eaters, a mixture of wheat, oats, canary seed, and cracked corn provides a well balanced diet. Some birds eat both seeds and animal food. For a minimum ration that satisfies varying tastes, suet, and ordinary baby-chick feed fill the bill—literally and economically.

Good wild birdseed mixtures are on the market, and even pressed peanut-and-suet cakes and assorted bird tidbits molded into small paper cups are available, so you don't have to mix your own in order to attract and hold the birds around the festive board.

Birds enjoy frequent dips through the hot summer months, and a birdbath should be provided. Just a shallow pan or dish with sloping sides (not more than an inch deep) set securely on a post out of the reach of cats will do. A concrete pedestal birdbath makes an attractive garden ornament. Locate it where you can watch your summer visitors performing their ablutions; you'll be surprised to see that different birds bathe in very different ways. Phoebes and vireos, for example, don't sit in the water and splash, but actually dart down and take their bath on the wing.

All trees, shrubs, and vines afford shelter, protective cover, and nesting sites for wild birds, and numerous fruit-bearing varieties also provide food. We can better attract birds if we give some thought to their needs when we plant our gardens. Set out native trees and shrubs wherever possible. Many of them exceed in beauty or interest the foreign plants and as a rule are more attractive to birds than exotic ones.

It should be borne in mind that smoothly trimmed hedges and stiff, formal trees are less inviting to birds than untrimmed bushes and tangled thickets. Shrubs closely pruned after blooming are not sought by birds, while those allowed to ripen fruit are often crowded with feathered visitors.

Records of the United States Wild Life Service show that the berries of elders are eaten by the largest number of birds. Mulberries, dogwood fruits, those of the nonpoisonous sumacs, the various wild cherries, and blueberries are chosen by more than 30 species of birds. Wild grapes, Virginia creeper berries, and juniper berries are eaten by 25 or more kinds of birds. This list is far from complete, but these plants are recommended on the basis of proved preference by birds. In addition there are many others known to supply much bird food, or which are important in regions where none of the plants mentioned are abundant. Some of these are manzanita, the California Christmasberry; the pepper tree, the fruit of which is a splendid bird food in southern California (particularly attractive to waxwings). It is advisable to make liberal use of plants that retain their fruit through the winter and early spring.

And don't overlook the value of wild fruits to protect cultivated varieties. The success of this plan depends largely on having the "decoy" trees early-bearing species. Nothing surpasses mulberries for enticing birds away from early orchard fruits. Wild strawberries, wild raspberries, and dewberries are early and will protect cultivated kinds. There need be no season without its wild fruit if wise selection of shrubs and trees is made. A small thicket of raspberry or dewberry, elder, and dogwood, grouped about some taller sumac, and juniper, will provide a year-round supply.

The first thing to decide when building or buying a birdhouse or nesting box is what birds you want for tenants. Don't just set up "a box for birds," for you'll be likely to get nothing better than a family of those aggressive hoodlums the English sparrows. Provide a birdhouse for a particular kind of bird —a wren, a chickadee, or a bluebird. Birds are just as fussy about their dwellings as people are, and, like people, they differ decidedly in their requirements. We have to cater to these bird customs and peculiarities, but this doesn't rule out taste and cleverness in birdhouse design. Here are some general specifications governing birdhouse architecture and location that should be observed:

1. Wood is by far the best building material. Don't use tin cans! Tin conducts heat, and you'll have either cooked eggs or fledglings.

2. The entrance hole should be well toward the top of the box, leaving ample space for the nest. To exclude rain, the hole may be bored at an upward slant and should be countersunk from the outside. For proper ventilation, a few small holes may be bored just under the eaves, but never below the entrance. A small drainage hole may be placed in the bottom.

3. Make entrance holes the right size for the birds you want. For example, a one-inch hole admits wrens but keeps out sparrows.

4. House-nesting birds don't go in for flats, duplexes, or apartments. They insist upon the privacy of single-room, detached dwellings. So provide houses with only one compartment. And don't place birdhouses intended for the same species close together. A dozen different kinds of birds may raise their families on the same lot, but rarely two of the same species.

5. Most nest boxes should be set on poles (protected with cat-guards) or fastened to the sides of trees at some distance from limbs and facing away from the prevailing wind.

6. A coat of paint or stain improves the looks of the birdhouse, but the inside should be left unpainted.

7. All houses should be easy to open and clean. After each brood departs, remove the old nesting material. Leave the boxes out all year. Some birds will use them for winter shelters.

The most successful birdhouse is the one which, while meeting practical bird requirements, retains pleasing lines and agreeable surfaces, but looks frankly what it is—a house for birds and not a toy human habitation. Rustic birdhouses made of slab wood with the bark left on are particularly appropriate.

The vivacious and voluble wren is the easiest of all birds to attract to a nest box. If you want to keep wrens with you all summer, you'd better put up two or three houses even in a small space. You see, the marriage relations of John and Jennie Wren are not above reproach. Quite a little trading of wives and husbands goes on in the wren clan. A gentleman wren is something of a feathered wolf and may be the head of several families in one short season.

But the admirable habits of the wren more than offset any moral lapses. This prying little busybody is an important ally of the gardener. Not a nook or corner escapes its inquisitive eyes, and its sharp, delicately tapered bill snaps up insects from dawn to dark, while every few moments the little flibbertigibbet boils over with rich, bubbling song.

Wrens have a queer notion about nest building—they never seem to know when they have moved in enough furniture to start housekeeping. They keep cramming twigs into a nest box until they can hardly get in themselves. One pair began building in a wooden barrel, and set out to fill the whole space with twigs. The bunghole had to be stopped up to make them move into more suitable quarters. Give wrens a small compartment, about four inches square and six to eight inches deep, and they'll fill it in a hurry and get busy raising a family.

(See page 16)

Mrs. Harvey, Professor of Botany at San Diego State College, points out three Kigelia pinnata.

The Sausage Tree

Dorothy R. Harvey

A little known oddity growing in the San Diego region is the Sausage Tree, a native of the Mozambique district of Portuguese East Africa, about 15 degree S latitude where it makes a tree up to 50 feet in height.

The common name refers to the large, cylindrical fruits, from one to one and a half feet long and four to six inches in diameter, which look like big sausages dangling on stalks several feet long.

The genus name *Kigelia* is from the native name, the species *pinnata* describes the large pinnately compound leaves, one and a half to two feet long with from seven to nine leaflets, each leaflet three to six inches long, stiff and shiny.

There are at least three trees in San Diego. One, the oldest, is in the Balboa Park Nursery; another in the Zoological Gardens; and a third on the campus of State College. This one has been hand pollinated and has produced fruits the last two years.

The flowers resemble those of the trumpet vines, being in the same family *Bignoniaceae*. They are large, bell shaped, three to four inches long, dark red in color, in loose, long stalked drooping racemes or panicles, blooming over a period of several months, from July to October.

The fruits seem to be of no use, having a thick, hard, slightly roughened rind and a tough fibrous pulp in which the seeds are embedded.

Bailey, in the Cyclopaedia of Horticulture states that in parts of Africa the tree, or possibly a related species, is said to be held sacred and that the fruit when cut and slightly roasted is said to be used as outward applications in certain diseases.

Fairchild mentions the tree in his book "The World Was My Garden" and "The World Grows Round My Door." He tells of the tree in Cairo from which he obtained seeds, and of the tree in Florida on the road from Coconut Grove to Cutler which literally stops traffic.

Marion, authoress of the charming "I Married a New Englander," grows nostalgic with Henry over blueberries in Rhode Island.

Leaves From The Observer's Notebook

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

The swing swayed rhythmically. From the slight frown on Henry's brow as he lay there with his eyes closed I knew he was thinking, not sleeping.

"What troubles thee," I asked, dropping into the satisfying intimacy of my Quaker ancestry. I had been "bothering about" the garden, watering profusely and mulching with leaf mold and peat. As I debudded my dahlias to encourage larger flowers I kept repeating to myself "Three to a stalk. Three to a stalk. Three to a stalk." I felt content, immersed in the maturity of mid-summer.

"When in doubt quote Shakespeare," replied Henry. "I 'gin to be aweary of the sun. Macbeth, Act 5, Scene 5."

"Was that why last evening you and Stan were discussing ski runs and the sound of snow crunching under foot?" I asked.

"Yes." answered Henry. "And don't forget the exhilerating tang of breathing frosty air."

"Nor the sight of your breath as you puff along on snow shoes," I added.

Henry started to get up, but gently I pushed him down again.

"Listen to me," I said. "Each season has its own particular flavor. If you attempt to live winter in summer or autumn in the spring or spring all year round you are going to miss a vital point of living and a lot of fun."

Having had my say I returned to my debudding and waited, knowing Henry would counter-attack.

Again he started to rise. But catching my eye, he sank back like some young thing caught in the act of disobedience. Recumbant, relaxed, and with the blue sky for a sounding board, he ventured this question:

"What spells summer to you?"

"A blueberry pie," I answered enthusiastically, flopping down beside the swing. "First, I would get my large garden hat and fill the crown with wet cabbage leaves. Then I would take my green pail, and off I'd start up the hill back of the house to the blueberry patch."

"What house?" Henry asked.

"Now, don't be trying — you know I mean the farmhouse in Rhode Island."

I shifted my position to give Henry a better view of me.

"To enjoy a real blueberry pie," I continued to rhapsodize, "you should always pick your own blueberries. Into the pail goes the flavor of infinite patience, and the musings of delicious memories."

Henry settled himself with a shake that said, *"Now, match what I'm going to say!"*

"Tell me," he queried, "what is the difference between my delight of winter in the summer, and your yearning to pick blueberries in Southern California where blueberries do not grow?"

I hugged my knees, stumped for a moment.

"Well," I began slowly, feeling for the answer, "it's the difference between time and space. You are trying to escape the inevitable. While I . . . . " I finished with a flourish, "I'm living universally within the bounds of the season, unconcerned with location."

Henry laughed. "You crawled out of that one neatly. Now answer me this one: What antidote of present values do you recommend to cure nostalgic yearnings?"

I was ready for him this time. "My new Florabunda roses that bloom all summer," I answered, struggling not to sound smug. "See, what luxurious foliage! What profusion of buds on a bush only two feet high! Besides which Florabunda roses have been included in the new planting around the White House."

"The White House could do with a few good odors," Henry remarked cryptically.

I ignored his comment, realizing that in a Presidential election year men's thoughts weigh heavily with politics. I rose to cut a bud. Holding to my subject I said,

"I like the names of my Florabundas— Vogue, Fashion, and Snow Bird. Here, smell this flaming scarlet Independence."

As I waved it in front of Henry I remarked, "The fragrance is free."

"Free, my eye!" protested my provident New Englander. He slipped his feet to the ground and sat bolt upright. "I paid hard cash for those bushes, not to mention fertilizer, water, and my loving labor."

I dumped his legs back onto the swing, which threw him on his back. On his chest I laid a rosebud, saying, "The result is marked 'Paid in full'."

Henry looked at me with one eye open, grinned, and said,

"What's in a name? That which
we call a rose
By any other name would smell
as sweet."

Mr. Lindsley, young attorney, vice-president of the San Diego Rose Society, and winner of 16 prizes in the recent Rose Show, shares some whys and wherefores of the art.

Queen Of Flowers

Byron F. Lindsley

The rose has been called the Queen of Flowers for centuries. Its form, beauty, and fragrance are unmatched by any other flower. Its adaptability is unsurpassed as there is a rose for every purpose in the garden. They range from tiny miniatures for the rockery to tall climbers and shrub roses which often grow over 12 feet tall. However, the overwhelming favorites are the hybrid teas and the gay, profuse blooming floribundas. In California, and particularly in San Diego, the blooming period extends from early spring into December. Given proper care, one may have roses in bloom in San Diego from Easter to Christmas. No other major garden plant can rival such a blooming period.

For the average gardener, the rose will grow with a minimum amount of care, producing beautiful blooms even in the face of neglect. One cannot, however, grow "prize" roses under such conditions. A rose, like a child, will grow despite neglect, but will only flourish under loving care.

What does one do to give the rose the care that will make it flourish and produce beautiful form, foliage and bloom? The first requirement is to select only first grade stock. The best time to buy your roses is in the dormant, bare root season of January and February. Go to a reliable nurseryman or distributor and pick out bushes with sturdy, well-balanced form of at least three strong canes. Select a rose which will do well in your locality. In coastal areas, such as San Diego, varieties with fewer petals do best, although some of the heavier petaled roses, notably the beautiful Peace Rose, are exceptions and do very well.

In planting the rose, the most important consideration is drainage. Roses will grow well in almost any soil provided they have good drainage. They will not tolerate wet feet. Prepare a hole about two feet deep and wide enough to accommodate the spread of the roots. In San Diego, adobe and hard pan are problems in many gardens. To test the drainage, fill the hole you have prepared with water and if it does not drain within a reasonable time, you may assume the drainage is not adequate and further preparation is necessary. By using a post hole digger to a depth of another foot or two and filling this smaller hole with rocks or gravel, the necessary drainage may be achieved with a minimum of effort. In our garden we were able to pierce the adoble at about three feet. At the bottom of the hole, place a layer of steer and cover this with a layer of soil to make sure that the steer does not come into contact with the bare roots of the rose. This should be adequate preparation. Spread the roots, making a mound of dirt in the center of the hole, over which the rose will be placed, and fill the hole part way with soil covering the roots. A handful of bone meal with the soil will be all the feeding necessary at this time. Tamp the soil and fill the hole with water. When this water has seeped down, fill the hole the rest of the way with soil. Remember that roses like plenty of sunlight, so place them in your garden in a spot with sufficient sunlight during the day. When the rose is finally planted, the bud union, in areas of mild climate like San Diego, should be slightly above the ground level.

Pruning is essential, but how much to prune is debatable. Even the experts do not agree. They all agree that weak, thin stems should be removed. The remaining canes should be cut back. I prune to about 15 or 18 inches above the ground on the average. Plants which are tall, sturdy growers, such as Sutters Gold, I prune to about 20 inches. Lower growing plants may be pruned to about 12 inches. The growing habit of the rose should determine the height to which it is pruned. In order to achieve a well-balanced plant when pruning, it is generally best to cut the stem or cane to an outside eye. An excellent discussion of pruning, as well as general rose culture, is contained in a pamphlet on rose culture in California prepared by the California Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, Berkeley, California. If you will write to this address and request their circular No. 148, it will be sent to you free of charge.

Roses are susceptible to certain insects and fungus diseases. The most usual insect pests in this area are aphis and thrips. Fungus diseases most difficult to control are mildew and rust. One can tell the difference between a well cared for rose and one that is neglected at this point. With regular spraying or dusting, pests and fungus can be controlled. I use

a standard combination spray mixture and have little trouble with aphis and none with thrips, and as long as I spray consistently once each week, covering the underside of the foliage, as well as the top, I have little or no trouble with mildew and rust. It is also important to keep the ground around your roses clean of dead leaves and flower petals, for they often carry the fungus spores under the ground and they will re-infect the plant.

Roses like to eat and drink. I feed our roses approximately every six to eight weeks. Some prize rose growers feed them as often as every three weeks. The average gardener has not time, inclination, or money to feed that often, and we have not found it necessary in order to produce consistent prize winning blooms. I use a standard commercial brand rose food. However, I have found that most any of the all-purpose commercial fertilizers are quite adequate. A mulch of cow or steer manure is desirable. We also give the plants a spring application of iron and sulphur, which adds to the strength and color of the foliage, stem and flowers. Once or twice a year, in the spring and perhaps again in the fall, I sprinkle the foliage with a solution of magnesium sulphate (ordinary epsom salts) and it seems to add depth to the green of the foliage.

During the heat of the summer, a good soaking once a week is necessary for flowers of good substance and color. Try to water early in the day. Night watering encourages fungus growth. It is better to water by deep ground soaking rather than by overhead sprinkling. If you must sprinkle overhead, by all means do it in the morning.

If you like roses of exhibition quality, that is, a single blossom on a long stem, then disbud. Many people prefer the profusion of bloom that comes with many roses to a stem when they do not disbut. This is, of course, a matter of personal preference. Removing the side buds throws all energy into the remaining bud, increases its size and enriches its color. Show roses are always grown disbudded. The proper time to disbud a rose is when all side buds first appear. The lasting quality of a rose is increased by picking it in the evening and when the outer petals are just beginning to unfurl.

I have tried to summarize the essential information as I know it for growing fine roses. There are perhaps many things that I have left unsaid. You are cordially invited to attend the monthly meetings of the San Diego Rose Society and share in the discussions of rose care and culture. We are always learning new and better ways of growing even more beautiful roses.

TO A BUTTERFLY

Winged spirit of eternal change,
Childhood friend of a cherished day,
Where do you go, when north winds blow
And your loved blooms have gone away?
Companion of the flowering fields,
Gay traveler from earth to air,
With but a moment's joy to life,
What can you know of grief and care?
Lover of all the joys of Spring,
Blossomed with the sweets of one brief day,
Like a fairy cloud across the sky
You wave adieu and flit away.
Will you return with April skies,
To find again your summer flower
And live once more life's ecstacy
In the beauty of that one hour?

—Edgar M. Klauber

Report on Federated Club Meet

☆

Luncheon Meeting of District 1A Federated Garden Clubs of California Inc., held June 4, 1952, at 12:30 p.m. at the Fireside Restaurant, Escondido.

Meeting called to order by Mrs. Henry, Chairman District 1A.

Present were Miss Kennedy and Mrs. Reese, past Chairman of District 1A, and representatives from the Garden Clubs of Escondido, Vista, Fallbrook, Rancho Santa Fe, Imperial Beach, Pacific Beach, and San Diego Floral Association.

The Chairman suggested that the best way to appoint Committee Members for the coming year was to assign projects to each Club with the hope that after the clubs have passed upon the suggested projects the Chairman will have a complete staff of helpers. Assignments are as follows:

Road Development, Pacific Beach; Conservation, Fallbrook; Finance Budget, Escondido; Flower Shows and Judging, San Diego Floral Assn.; "Golden Gardens," Escondido; Historian, Vista; Junior Gardening, Imperial Beach; Membership and Organization, Escondido; Programs, Pacific Beach; Garden Tours, San Diego Floral Assn.

Mrs. Henry reported that delegates to the recent meeting of the State Convention, held in Eureka, voted to hold next year's State Convention of the Federated Garden Clubs of California in San Diego County. Suggested meeting place already contacted is Hotel del Coronado. Dates of the Meeting suggested by the State President were June 3rd, 4th, and 5th. The San Diego delegation at the Escondido meeting reported that the best time for the state meeting would be during the month of April when the Annual Flower Show, the Coronado Flower Show and our springtime wildflowers could afford attractions for the up-state Convention delegates.

Objective now is for all members in this District to strive to interest more clubs in joining the Federation in order to assure the Convention that San Diego County is proud to be the host for its first meeting in Southern California. For the Convention next year, Mrs. Henry would like the San Diego Floral Association to supply the following chairmen: Registration, Hospitality, Arrangements and Publicity.

Next meeting of District 1A, Federated Garden Clubs of California, will be held in the Escondido Women's Club at 1:30 p.m., October 27, 1952. It is hoped that a large representation from the San Diego Floral Association will attend this meeting to welcome Mrs. Hardan, Federation State President, and other state officers. At that time more Convention plans will be formulated.

—Mrs. Earl H. Mass

Miss McLouth continues in her efforts to keep us well-read!

New Books

Ada McLouth

THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION, by Wilfrid Blunt. Collins, 1950. $4.75.

The author, in treating of botanical illustration, has limited himself to flower painting and drawing, and to the naturalistic rather than the decorative phases of the craft.

This is probably the most complete and scholarly treatment of the subject; in fact, so painstaking and conscientious that this second edition, published one year after the first edition, includes two pages of corrections and additions.

The magnitude of his task is indicated by the fact that he lists more than 800 books about flowers in his research. Besides the great collections in botanical gardens and natural history museums in England, he had access to private collections there and many public collections on the Continent.

Blunt deplores the fact that such treasures as the originals of drawings and water colors are sequestered in the cupboards of museums and private collectors, inaccessible to the public.

From the most ancient herbals to the twentieth century and modern color photography, the various trends in the spirit and execution of botanical illustration are shown in their development, chronologically and by school. But it appears that as the science of botany developed and gardening and floriculture became a craze, the artist in this field became international and wandered from one country to another, from one noble or wealthy patron to another, or on expeditions to other continents, as the great work of botanical exploration went on.

The great names of patrons, famous gardeners, botanists, artists, engravers, are woven together in the biographical notes with which the book is well documented.

The various methods of reproduction are differentiated, wood, stone, and steel-engraving, with adequate description of the techniques. Two articles by experts in the craft of drawing plants are incorporated in the book.

The final chapter sums up the last 500 years during which the practice of botanical art reached its highest stage, to decline somewhat since the middle of the nineteenth century.

This volume is one of a series: The New Naturalist; A Survey of British Natural History.

There are 162 illustrations, of which 47 are color plates. It has a bibliography and index, making it a useful reference book as well as a beautiful one to own.

AS FAR AS THE YUKON, by Florence Page Jaques. Illustrations by Francis Lee Jaques. Harper, 1951. $4.00.

Many will read this book with a longing for the experiences recounted, and also with some envy of the author's ability to describe the delightful adventures of discovery and recognition in the outdoors around the perimeter of our country and through bits of Canada.

The reader's recognition is aroused by many of the quotations and references, as when she refers to what Beverly Nichols calls "Making the Tour," his regular, minute, and systematic inspection of every inch of his garden.

When she describes minute flowers she makes appealing the particular mystery sensed in their secret lives. "No other mortal would look upon these dim infinitesimal stars."

Since her descriptions of Southwestern desert flowers are devoted to the giants in the landscape, yucca, saguaro, it is to be hoped she will find opportunity to scan our desert floor for its tiny beauties.

There is emphasis throughout on white and off-white flowers, another choice that produces a thrill of kinship in this reader.

The point of all this is that the trip the author and her husband made "to the Yukon by way of Texas" featured a search for wild gardens, each distinctive and representative of its region.

The artist's sketches are an added delight and include bird and animal subjects in their natural background. The scientific details of plant and bird life have been given attention. The excellent index will add to the pleasure of having this book to keep and re-read.

(From page 5)

but because of the development of the avocado industry there, and the steady cutting up of land into building lots, Briggs has acquired 200 acres at Carlsbad for his growing.

"What I have done in my long career I do not consider work," Mrs. Briggs said. "I call it fun. I have had a grand time in this life, and I intend to continue active as long as I am able."

Patronize Our Advertisers

Mr. and Mrs. Walmsley of Soledad Gardens, Pacific Beach, trace their tropicals to their own back yard.

Tierresita Montanosa

Lewis and Faye Walmsley

For several years we have been specializing in the growing of tropical foliage plants. Neither of us had ever been in the tropics and we wanted to learn how some of the plants grow in their own back yard. For many years we had had a yen to visit Costa Rica, so we combined the two, took a plane in Tijuana on December 19th and landed in San Jose, Costa Rica, 24 hours later. On our arrival at San Jose we were met by our friends, the Cappellas.

Costa Rica is a little Central American country between Panama and Nicaragua, with the Carribean to the Northeast and the Pacific to the Southwest. From ocean to ocean it is about 85 to 135 miles wide and approximately three times as long. In area it is about the size of West Virginia. Traversing almost its entire length and a little nearer the Pacific is a mountainous divide varying in height from 4000 to 11,000 feet. Most of its population is centered in what is known as the Meseta Central, a comparatively small area between 4000 and 6000 feet high. This area in general has a climate very similar to that of San Diego, at least during the dry season, the time we were there. West of the divide a dry season lasts from November to May and a wet season from May to November, except for the mountain ridge and mountain tops which get frequent showers during the dry period. The east slope receives rain throughout the year. Temperature at either Coast is between 80 and 100 degrees. There is no snow in the mountains but water does freeze and form ice during the night at the highest points.

This great variety of physical conditions and the fact that the flora of North America and South America lap at this point make for the greatest possible variety of plants. In San Jose, the Capitol, there are a number of attractive parks, with many beautiful trees and architectural features. They are only beginning to use some of their beautiful native tropical plants, such as anthuriums, philodendrons, and monsteras, in park planting, and we understand this is a project of the Woman's Garden club. Many of the people there are quite garden conscious and even the small places have much planting about them, especially featuring several varieties of crotons, colored-leaved dracaenas, variegated varieties of what are known among florists as aralias, plumeria, poinsettias, bougainvillea, euphorbia lactea (the most beautiful specimens we had ever seen) — some of them forming cone-shaped trees 12 feet high and eight feet wide at the base—and many other plants used in lesser degree. Ferns, begonias, and orchids in pots and hanging baskets were nearly everywhere. Bananas were in variety, those eaten raw and for cooking. Most of these in the highlands are grown to furnish shade for the coffee plantations. Coffee is the main export crop and the best grades are grown in the highlands. Pineapples, papayas, oranges, lemons (most of the lemons insipidly sweet), and coconuts were plentiful. We also tried a number of other tropical fruits in the market. Avocados and mangoes were not in season but we understood that they would be plentiful and of good quality later. Wild fruits which we found interesting, included annonas (something like

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cherimoyas), passion fruit, little cucumbers the size of gooseberries, wild blackberries, and raspberries.

Some cultivated flowers that have escaped and gone wild were very noticeable. In the lowlands on the Carribean side calla lilies cover many acres and are a troublesome weed. Many oxcart trails in the highlands are bordered by tangles of impatiens sultana in many shades and bryophyllum pinnatum. Hedychiums are found everywhere along streams and moist spots.

Along most of the highways and near the cities, towns, and villages, all of the land is cultivated. Up the sides and over the tops of mountains, we found fields of corn, sugar cane, coffee, various vegetables, and pastures, each surrounded by a hedge made up of a variety of ornamental and economic plants. Some of these fields are on 45 degree slopes and one has to lean against the ground to keep from falling out of the field. The country people are hard-working, fast-moving, energetic and extremely clean. Travel in the country is by foot, oxcart, and occasionally by horseback. After climbing a few of the oxcart trails with many pauses to pant, we developed a great admiration for the noble oxen that haul the beautifully painted oxcarts up and down the mountains over what appear to be impassable trails.

We spent three days as guests of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences at Turrialba. Here we got our first close-up of uncultivated ground, on the trail from the Institute down to the Reventazon River, a paradise for plant people. Trees of many varietes and sizes, some of them with great buttressed bases 14 feet broad at the ground and six feet in diameter at 10-foot height, and about 150 feet high. Each tree had its own population of other plants, monsteras, philodendrons, syngoniums, nepthytis, and climbing ferns, and other vines on the trunks. Palms, ferns, begonias, heliconias, costus, gesnerias, (a little bush with translucent blue berries), Marica, and a myraid of other species compete for space under the trees, and at the bottom the Reventazon hurls itself over a series of rapids as it rushes to the Carribean. We saw other wild spots, mostly at a distance from train windows, buses, and a launch on the Gulf of Nicoya. It is a country of most beautiful and varied scenery, rugged mountains, waterfalls, countless streams, black sand beaches, island studded gulf, and little white clouds floating constantly from the Carribean to the Pacific.

After an all night truck ride with four Guernsey calves and a trailer of barbed wire, we arrived at Monteverde—3000 acres owned by a group of pioneering Quakers from the U.S.A. Here we lived for two weeks in a house tent at the edge of the forest near the dividing ridge in a section of the country where little plant collecting had been done. From the ridge to just below our house tent we had almost daily showers, some of them fine mists. Here the grass in cleared pasture lands was green, a mile below it was brown, and stretched out like a picture below—the Gulf of Nicoya and the Pacific. Here in the woods were many of the plants we saw at Turrialba, including tree ferns and many other varieties we did not see there. Here we collected canes, roots, and a few seed (we were too early for most seed) and enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of our hosts.

We left many congenial friends in Costa Rica and hope to return for a much longer stay in the future.

(From page 4)

plants so there is always one section in the spotlight at each different season.

I have stressed the difficulties of certain selections so you may avoid or welcome a challenge. Put much thought and time into your plans and when visiting your nursery ask where you may see full-grown specimens as well as the small stock. Accept no gift plants from a friend's overflow, unless they are well grown and up-to-date varieties. Wonderful strides have been made in improving old strains. Start with the best of today, rather than that of yesteryear, and, with good planting and intelligent care, your outdoor garden-room should be the favorite place for every gathering.

PODRIDA EN CAZUELA

A one-dish meal of Old San Fernando

Step 1:

2 lbs. stew beef, cut fine.
4-inch piece link chorioz (Mexican sausage)
2 small onions, chopped fine.
2 cloves garlic, chopped fine.
1 small can (4 oz.) tomato sauce.

Brown beef in small amount of oil (peanut oil is excellent). Add chorizo, garlic and onions. Season with 1 teaspoon salt, 1 tablespoon chili powder, ¼ teaspoon oregano (or ¼ teaspoon marjoram and ¼ teaspoon thyme). Cover with tomato sauce and 4 oz. hot water. Cook slowly for 30 minutes.

Step 2:

8 or 10 thinly sliced patty-pan squash (crook-neck or zucchini may be used).
1 No. 2 can creamed corn.
1 No. 2½ can golden hominy.

Pour meat mixture into large (9-inch) cazuela (casserole); cover with layer of sliced squash, layer of creamed corn, and top with layer of hominy. Place lid on cazuela and bake in oven for 1 hour at 350 degrees F.

Step 3:

About ½ hour before serving decorate the podrida with strips of pimiento and large olives, return to oven at 250 degrees F. This dish will provide eight generous servings. Complement with a green salad, cheese-garlic bread and coffee. Watermelon or green-apple pie create a grand finale.

Recipe furnished by Guy L. Fleming, retiring President, in compliance with requests from the ladies of the San Diego Floral Association who attended the "pot-luck" supper, Tuesday evening, June 17, 1952.

Making easier your—

Garden Chores

Ada Perry

(Instead of Charlie Dibb)

If you think gardening is a chore, you should try to get Charlie Dibb to write this article. You probably know this Dibb character better than I do—Oh, not that I'm implying you ever came up before the juvenile bureau, from which he graduated, I mean, retired, last year. But he and Mrs. Dibb have lived out on 33rd for years and years and his father's been a jeweler here for years and sons and sons of said Dibb have also played—five of them—on the local high school and college teams. And now Charlie Dibb is out at the Mission Valley Nursery instead of the police station and he was too durned busy gardening to write this article. And some day *I'm* going to be too durn busy gardening to write articles and Dibb is going to have a sprained hunt-and-pecking finger. So there.

This summer isn't exactly like every other summer. There are more and bigger bugs, there is tremendouser rust and mildew and what I'm told is chlorosis seems to be wending its watery green way through our gardens. At least it looks like chlorosis to a local nurseryman and it is being treated with iron sulphate in some instances. And in an instance with which I am familiar, both a bordeaux compound and sulphur are being used to combat the rust and mildew. The sulphur is left on two days and then thoroughly hosed off. Two days is about all you can stand of looking at the stuff. The bordeaux and so forth stuff carries on well in between times but it doesn't seem to have quite the wicked zing of the sulphur. But who can stand sulphur drizzled all over the garden every day?

About the bugs, we have lindane, chlordane, DDT, and TEPP and we ought to be happy. The lindane stuff is a big help getting 'em in the ground. And of course there are still the pyrethrum and rotenone sprays and dusts for the vegetables in the garden.

Planting flowers is a nice change from what we've been talking about, and it's perennial time. You can, if you like, tuck in Shasta daisies, penstemon, and carnations; and the biennials like canterbury bells and foxgloves. And delphinium—but I'm not going to say what they are in San Diego. They "am" what they turn out to be.

It's going to be time for pansies, sweet peas, stocks and snapdragons pretty soon, seeds and plants, and with these favorite flowers, you might want to make up a bed with Krilium or one of the other chemical soil conditioners. They are wonderful for nurturing seeds and young plants according to all signs and experiments. No hard crust and the soil soft and damp for the roots. That's what they've been making these materials for.

And incidentally, these materials are worth investigating for every bank or erosion control planting contemplated over the city. Bank-holding is one of their uses and combined with much faster growth, well—see the picture?

Incidentally, dichondra will be seeding sometime this summer. Lots of people like to see that because it is increasing their dichondra stand, after all. Other folks mulch with peat and fertilize with the processed materials high in nitrogen and hope for a better appearance during seeding days. A little nature project is getting better acquainted with your dichondra blossoms and seeds by means of a prone position and a reading or magnifying glass. Reason for the brown color is leaves wilting down to cover the seeds. But if you encourage lots of new leaves, things will look better.

Better feed your dahlias, chrysanthemums and camellias until they show bloom color. Disbud dahlias and cut back bush type 'mums for even more sprays of flowers. Ever try planting bachelor buttons and goditias together for cut flowers?

That iron sulphate is good for what ails a gardenia with yellow leaves, usually.

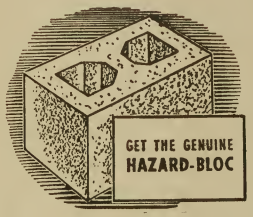
P.S. Also try mowing your dichondra if you want to prevent it from going to seed.

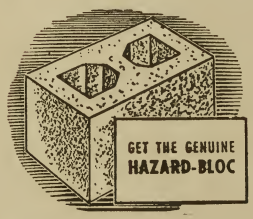
(From page 9)

Birds sometimes have trouble finding suitable materials for nest building. In a well kept garden where these supplies are scarce, the homemaking of birds (including those nesting in trees) can be aided by providing this material. Rags, yarn, ravelings, thread, and twine can be used by many birds, but only short pieces should be put out in order to overt danger to the birds from tangling. Excelsior, straw, hay, cotton, floss, and even horsehair and feathers may be provided. These building supplies can be put in a tree crotch, or if they're hung up in an ordinary wire broiler, there will be no waste. Don't stuff any material in nest boxes, thinking you'll help the birds. That's going too far, and the birds resent it. Along with all the other items to attract birds you can now buy nesting-material stations, ready stocked with suitable materials.

If you do anything more than hang one of these nesting aids outside your window, you'll attract birds and have fun watching different ones make their selections.

This Summer beautify your garden with





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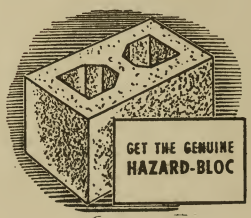


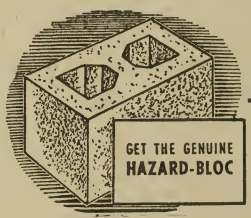
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